

Message

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Subject: Pre-SFIREG update and call for agenda items
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Hello all,

Our November pre-SFIREG is rapidly approaching. We will be conducting the meeting virtually through GoTo Meetings as we did this spring. The dates will be **Wednesday, November 4** and **Thursday, November 5, 2020**. I propose a similar schedule to our spring meeting. That being an afternoon start on Wednesday (12:00 PM – 4:00 PM CST) and wrapping up Thursday morning (8:30 AM - 11:00 AM or so). Please submit any proposed agenda items to me or Susan Rittenhouse. I have provided a list of topics that will be included on the agenda below. I hope to have a finalized meeting agenda with complete meeting information at least week in advance of the meeting (October 28). Thanks in advance for your input and participation.

I hope you all are doing well. I look forward “seeing” everyone soon. Please feel free to forward this email to those interested who were not included.

Doug

1. **FY2022-2025 FIFRA Cooperative Agreement Guidance**: OPP has gathered comments on the grant guidance from AAPCO and states by the August 2020 deadline. Now that comments have been provided to EPA OPP, please reflect on the topics and discuss any additional perspectives and comments related to program areas where you would like to provide additional feedback to EPA OPP. How can SFIREG assist you in communicating with EPA specific suggestions and changes to the guidance? Are there any additional changes or additions suggested?
2. **Pollinator Management and Bee Keeping Practices and Products**: Recent concern has emerged from R4 states and other states about how Pollinators are managed and concerns about bee keeping practices and products

that might be causing issues. What issues do you see in your state and regions with regards to managed pollinator pesticide use practices, cases, and management where education, training, and pesticide labels and violations could be occurring?

3. **Paraquat Labeling - Certified Applicator Requirement:** The recent changes to the label only allow "certified applicators" to make applications. Have the states in your region received any feedback regarding this requirement and impacts to the ability to get the training and make the necessary applications? Have you received questions regarding additional training and who can do what? What if any other frequently asked questions can you share?
4. **Dicamba 2020 Growing Season and Upcoming EPA Decisions:** We have been through the 2020 growing season, and how many reports of misuse have you received; how many enforcement actions have been taken; and what are the overall issues you're dealing with from 2020 or even previous years. What trends do you have in cases? Have the 2019 changes and training programs for the dicamba label made a difference? What are the states specific concerns regarding continued use of dicamba in 2020 and the next registration decision cycle in the fall of 2020?
5. **Revised C&T Plans:** As the modified certification plans have been developed and submitted to EPA; how have your programs continued to adapt to C&T issues and topics especially during this COVID-19 pandemic? Are there any continued or lingering concerns/questions regarding the review process, and how can SFIREG assist you in working with EPA OPP?
6. **COVID-19 Impacts on Pesticide Programs (Looking back and looking ahead):** With the evolving public health crisis, all states have been impacted to varying degrees. How have your programs continued to adjust to the pandemic and COVID-19 impacted your respective pesticide programs, inspections and investigations, C&T, and other programs. Are there any implications to your ability to meet your commitments under your cooperative agreement across programs? What if any assistance do you need from EPA?
7. **Issues in states with FIFRA preemption:** States in R8 and elsewhere have asked for SFIREG to assess the complex nature of FIFRA preemption. State lead agencies for FIFRA have historically had state primacy for FIFRA, act as co-regulators with EPA for FIFRA, lead the work to implement the EPA FIFRA Cooperative Agreements, create state pesticide laws and rules to regulate pesticides and implement associated pesticide programs. Preemption is the ability of one level of government to override laws of a lower level. Pesticides in many states are regulated solely by the State Lead Agency. There has been a movement in some states to allow the restriction of pesticide uses at other jurisdictional levels such as city or county governments. Are there issues and implications for your ability to work as the SLA, work with applicators and the pesticide industry, and what assistance do states need? Full SFIREG appreciates your assistance to fill out this survey to assist in creating the issue paper.



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